

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

I. Amendments to the Claims

Claims 10 and 11 have been amended to recite statutory subject matter. Further, claims 8 and 9 remain unchanged and claims 1-7 remain cancelled.

II. 35 U.S.C. §101 Rejection

Claims 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 for failure to recite statutory subject matter. Specifically, claims 10 and 11 were rejected for neither transforming the underlying subject matter nor positively being tied to another statutory category that accomplishes the claimed method steps.

As mentioned above, claims 10 and 11 have been amended to recite statutory subject matter (i.e., a computer-readable recording medium having a program recorded thereon, wherein the program causes a computer to execute a method). Specifically, claims 10 and 11 are now tied to another statutory category that accomplishes the claimed method steps.

As a result, it is submitted that the 35 U.S.C. § 101 rejection is inapplicable to amended claim 10 and 11 and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 8 and 9 were identified by the Examiner as being allowed. The Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter. Claims 8 and 9 remain unchanged, and therefore should remain allowed.

Amended independent claim 10 is a program/method version of allowed claim 8. Accordingly, in view of the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter as discussed above, it is submitted that amended independent claim 10 and claim 11 that depends therefrom are allowable.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance and an early notification thereof is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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